REACHING OUT - MARINE SCIENCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR RURAL COASTAL COMMUNITIES

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Resource Issue

- Rural communities
- Resources - fish, mussels, crabs, etc
- Commercial, recreational
- South African Marine Living Resources Act, 1998
- Subsistence fishers
- Co-management
Co-management

- Full participation in decision making
- Capacity building required
- Ecological processes
- Fisheries management
- Fishers and authorities
Sea World Education Centre

- South African Association for Marine Biological Research, Durban, East Coast
- Non-government, not-for-gain organisation
- Oceanographic Research Institute, Sea World
- Training of rural communities initiated in 1997
**Context**

- **Key training needs:**
  - basic fisheries management principles
  - basic ecosystem functioning,
  - basic biology of key animals harvested,
  - communication skills,
  - Improve communication
  - Empower communities
  - Assist conservation
Context

- **Target audience:**
  - subsistence fishers, fishery monitors,
  - regional extension officers,
  - traditional tribal authorities
  - conservation agency staff
Methodologies used

- Situation varied
- Limited technology
- Limited formal education
- English, Zulu or Xhosa
- Limited written information
Methodologies used

- Group work - participation required
- Models
- Games
- Role-playing
- Hands-on activities
- Traditional story telling
Results

• Improved co-operation between fishers and management authorities
• Improved communication between different groups of fishers
• Greater participation in decision making
• Reduction in antagonism towards conservation staff
• Wider community training
Comments from conservation staff

• “The change in mindset amongst key community members will have far reaching effects in the management of the Maputaland Marine Reserve”
Project manager, Kosi Bay
Comments from community members

- “I am so happy because I have never been to school and now that I am old I can learn all these things.”  
  KwaZulu-Natal
Lessons learnt

- Personal contact
- Flexibility
- Credibility
- Trust
- Timing
- Simplicity
- Interactive and visual

- Indigenous knowledge
- Limited worldview
- Repetition
- Context
- Education is only one cog in the wheel of sustainable utilisation
Conclusion
Acknowledgements

- Project managers
- Funders
- Conservation staff
- Sea World team
- Community members
- US - NSF and SA - FEST